



Spokane ♦ Vancouver ♦ Pasco ♦ Puyallup ♦ Bellevue ♦ Seattle ♦ Everett

This summer Governor Gregoire and her senior staff are visiting several communities across the state, engaging citizens in a meaningful dialogue about state government's priorities, performance and accountability. She is reaching out beyond the lobbyists and special interests who traditionally have had the most access to state government decision makers. As she puts it,

**"We can't set the state's priorities alone in Olympia. I am reaching out to hear directly from the citizens, so they can help me set priorities and identify ways to measure whether state government is working better or not."**

The citizen engagement process is designed in three tiers to engage citizens in a meaningful dialogue, and to gather information from multiple sources.

1. **Citizen Workshops:** Fifty citizens are selected at random to represent a cross-section of each community. These citizens meet with members of the governor's staff for a three-hour workshop to discuss, design, and prioritize performance measures to track progress in critical services, such as health care, the economy, transportation and education.
2. **Community Leader events:** Community leaders representing a broad spectrum of interests and organizations meet with the governor's senior staff to discuss the priorities developed in the citizen workshops, delving further into the most important issues in that community.
3. **Town Halls:** In an open community forum, Governor Gregoire will ask citizens directly what results they think their state government ought to be accountable for delivering.

Governor Gregoire will use the citizens' ideas to inform state budget development in the fall. She also conducts bi-weekly performance review sessions with agency directors, holding them personally accountable for delivering real results and ensuring that citizens get a good return on their tax dollars.

A final report on the summer's tour will be completed by August 31, 2006.

## Bellevue Citizen Forum: Summary Report

Monday, July 17, 2006 at Bellevue Community College

### Who was at the Bellevue Citizens Forum?

- 45 citizens, a representative sample drawn from a list of people who voted at least once in past 4 elections.  
Gender: 41% male, 59% female
- Where from: 7% Kenmore, 9% Bothell, 11% Kirkland, 14% Redmond, 25% Bellevue, 11% Mercer Island, 7% Renton, 16% Other
- Age Group: 16% were 18-35, 31% were 36-50, 40% were 51-64, and 13% were 65 or older

- Household: 27% Single, no children; 30% Couple, no children; 7% Single, children at home; 36% Couple, children at home
- Employment: 56% private sector; 16% public sector, 29% not employed or retired

**Here's what the citizens in Bellevue said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:**

1) education 2) economic vitality 3) transportation 4) safety

**Overall Comments:**

- State government is working: Better (26%) About the same (51%) Worse (23%). This closely matches the responses from a statewide survey conducted in April 2006.
- "We don't pay attention to state government. What we have to say is a perception, and may not be accurate."
- Some Suspicious of metrics themselves – "Government says congestion is improving, but we are still sitting in traffic."
- High energy in room – ready to dive into the measures. More interest in the finer points of the measures (how to measure, how to improve) rather than the measures themselves.
- Table groups wanted to be heard and understood by the other table groups.

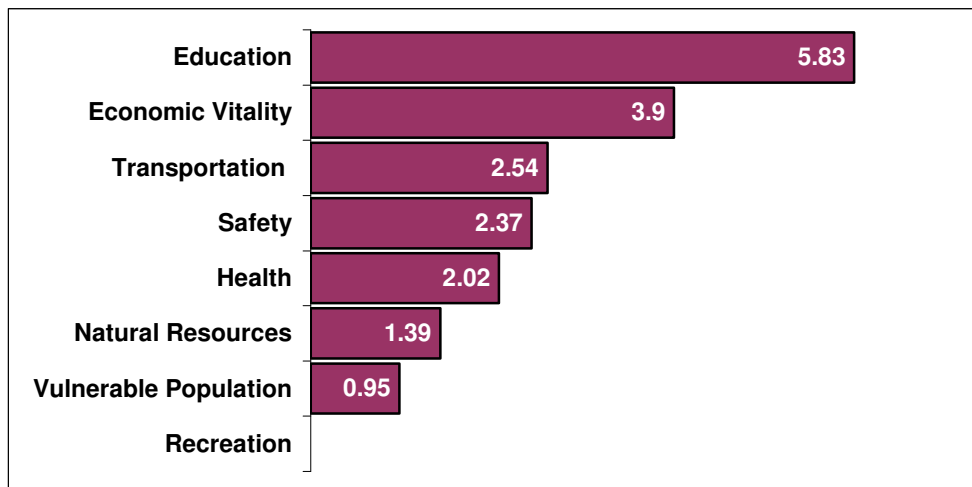
**What is not working very well in state government today:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools as a learning environment (e.g. spell the words any way you want to, learning to pass the WASL)</li> <li>• Regulations and permitting process for individual property – I could do anything I wanted if I paid. Doesn't meet objectives of the environment.</li> <li>• Voter registration, vote counting, illegal votes.</li> <li>• Legislature and Governor's Office not working together.</li> <li>• Takes too long to do a transportation project.</li> <li>• Not enough long-term planning.</li> <li>• Poor communication and consistency between state/state and state/local governments.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rate of home prices going up v.s. rate of salaries and affordability (pushing growth out/congested arterials)</li> <li>• Tuition at state universities – middle class is being squeezed out of higher education</li> <li>• Ability to put classes in schools</li> <li>• Concerned about preparedness for emergencies</li> <li>• Concerned about funding and support for mental health</li> </ul> |
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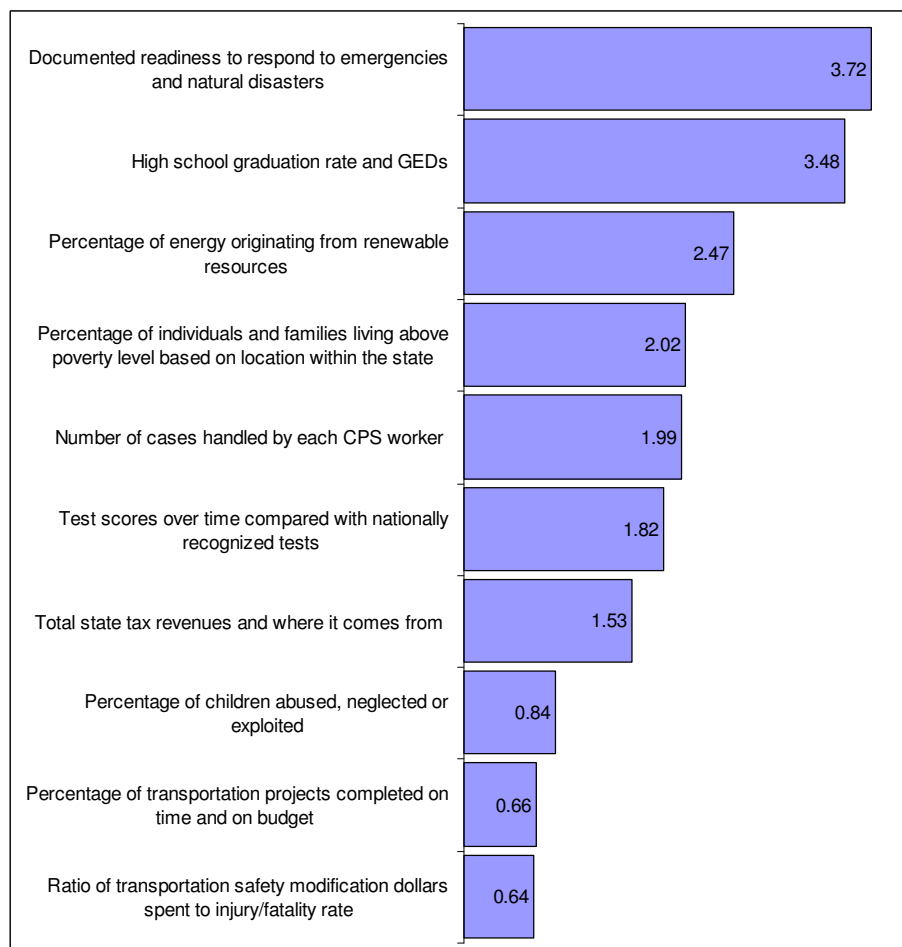
**What is working well in state government today:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington State Parks - campgrounds</li> <li>• Better education facilities, course offerings, training for teachers</li> <li>• State more pleasant to live in because of the Growth Management Act</li> <li>• Balanced trade at the state</li> <li>• Availability of information (e.g. newsletters, website) "I can get any kind of information I want."</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving forward on mass transportation system (40 years overdue)</li> <li>• Artistic things to beautify our area</li> <li>• Teachers are better, but cost of becoming one is going up</li> </ul> |
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Here's what the citizens in Bellevue said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:



Here are the top 10 “Vital Signs” – how Bellevue citizens will know if state government is working better (or worse)



For more information about the Governor's Listening to You tour, visit  
[www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)